

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

ADOPTED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Chase Palm Park Center • Santa Barbara, CA

In Attendance:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

US NAVY

Member Alex Stone

Alternate Ron Dow

US COAST GUARD

Member Lt. Yuri Graves

Alternate Mike Hamerski

CA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Alternate Lt. Jorge Gross

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Gary Timm

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester

Alternate Jackie Campbell

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger

Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

BUSINESS

Member Rudy Scott

RECREATION

Member Jim Brye

FISHING

Member Bruce Steele

Alternate Chris Williams

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop

EDUCATION

Member Dave Long

RESEARCH

Member Leal Mertes, Ph.D.

Alternate Matthew Cahn

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Craig Fusaro, Ph.D. (Chair)

Alternate Mick Kronman

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Marla Daily

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Alternate Barry Schuyler

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY**

Member LCDR Edward Cassano

Alternate LCDR Matthew Pickett

Not in attendance:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey
Alternate Korie Johnson

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Member James Shevock, Ph.D.
Alternate Gary Davis

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Drew Mayerson

CA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Patricia Wolf

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird
Alternate Melissa Miller-Henson

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Alternate Jack Ainsworth

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY**

William Douros, Superintendent

**GULF OF THE FARALLONES/CORDELL BANK
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

Ed Ueber, Manager

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Member Michael Finucan
Alternate Alex Brodie

BUSINESS

Alternate Dr. Dan Secord

RECREATION

Alternate Tony Gibbs

EDUCATION

Alternate Larry Manson

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Jean-Michel Cousteau

1. Administrative Items and Announcements

A. Call To Order and Roll Call

Council Secretary Lyn Krieger called the role. A quorum of voting members was present (14 seats represented at roll call). An additional two seats were subsequently represented as additional members arrived later in the day.

B. Introductory Remarks

Sanctuary Manager Ed Cassano announced that this would be his last SAC meeting. He expressed appreciation and well wishes to the Council, then turned over the SAC's CINMS seat to Acting Manager Matt Pickett.

C. Meeting Minutes

The November 18th SAC meeting minutes were approved. **The minutes will be posted on the Sanctuary's website as well as made available in hard copy.**

The January 20th draft meeting minutes were e-mailed to Council members on March 14, and distributed at the meeting. Per Council agreement, comments are due by April 1. After April 1, the minutes will be considered final and will be posted on the Sanctuary's web site.

D. SAC Vacant Seats

There have been eleven applications received for the Conservation Alternate seat. The SAC's preliminary review subcommittee (Fusaro, Krop, Meester, Steele) agreed on their top three candidates. These names will be passed on to Matt Pickett (Sanctuary Manager) who will make a final recommendation. The recommendation will then be sent to National Marine Sanctuary Program headquarters for final approval.

There is currently a Public At-Large Alternate open seat as well. The Sanctuary will advertise this opening in local newspapers and contact previous Public At Large applicants.

E. SAC Representation Revisited

The Council decided in May 1999 to revisit the representation of seats after six months. Both Bruce Steele, who holds the Fishing seat, and Chris Williams, who holds the Fishing Alternate seat, requested additional fishing seats be represented on the SAC. Several members commented that some of their constituents are concerned about SAC representation. Dave Long stated that at the time of SAC formation, the public did not fully realize the importance, function, or role of the SAC. Linda Krop does not believe that changing the SAC representation will help, and that the SAC's working groups should be used for broader representation. She commented that if allowed, every Council member would probably want more representation on the SAC.

Questions were raised regarding the SAC seat selection process at other Sanctuaries. Sean Hastings, Policy Program Specialist at CINMS, stated that SAC charters are consistent nationwide and that the selection process is relatively standard. He suggested using working groups as a way to broaden the Council. He noted that the number of SAC seats is determined locally and that in general, Councils differ in size from fifteen to twenty-two. To discuss this matter further without affecting the present agenda, this issue will be agendaized at the next SAC meeting.

Action Item: SAC Representation will be agendaized for forty-five minutes at the next SAC meeting (April 19, 2000).

Marla Daily expressed concern about her alternate's lack of attendance at meetings. Craig suggested that members discuss their concerns with the alternate first, but if that doesn't work, the SAC could draft a letter if needed.

F. SAC Annual Report

A draft outline of a SAC annual report was distributed. Mike Murray will work to distribute a draft SAC Annual Report at the next SAC meeting. Comments on the SAC Annual Report outline are due on April 1, 2000.

2. Manager's Report (Matt Pickett)

CINMS Manager Transition

Sanctuary Manager Ed Cassano is departing on March 31, 2000. To facilitate a smooth transition of leadership, LCDR Matthew Pickett has been serving as Acting Manager since February 22. We will honor Ed and say our goodbyes at a festive event scheduled for April 7. The Council will receive invitations soon.

National Marine Sanctuary Program Organizational Changes

On February 24-25, Sanctuary staff met with Dan Basta, the new Chief of NOAA's Marine Sanctuaries Division. Dan brings to the Sanctuary Program over twenty years of service to and experience with NOAA. Dan also directs the Special Projects Office of NOAA's National Ocean Service.

During his orientation visit to CINMS, Dan was briefed by staff on programs, projects and needs at the site. Dan is very supportive of the work CINMS is doing, and is arranging for a variety of in-kind services to be contributed to our work from other NOAA departments and offices.

Dan is very supportive of the SAC; he expressed that the SAC is a vital community link without which we cannot be successful in achieving our goals.

The Management Plan Revision and Marine Reserves process are also of great importance to Dan Basta. Dan is very impressed with the progress of the Marine Reserves Working Group, and feels it is important that the Sanctuary fully supports the process and that the group stays on schedule.

CINMS will try to arrange for Dan Basta to visit with the Advisory Council at his next available opportunity.

Resource Protection, Policy and Permit Activities

Alaska Air Flight 261 – CINMS role and response

At about 4:40 p.m. on January 31, 2000 Alaska Airlines Flight 261 went down about three miles from Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS) and CINMS staff provided support services to the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Transportation Safety Board in the search and rescue operation which ended on February 2nd. The staff played an active role in the emergency response to the event:

- LCDR Matt Pickett served as the on-scene coordinator representing NOAA, and worked primarily at the Incident Command Center in Port Hueneme. Ed Cassano made a special trip back from the east coast to help coordinate actions in the early stages. The NTSB requested that Matt represent NOAA as the lead federal agency coordinating environmental issues associated with the wreckage recovery activity.
- Ben Waltenberger, Satie Airame and staff from NOAA's Coastal Services Center provided detailed bathymetric, sediment and crash site GIS data maps and web site products.
- Julie Goodson coordinated public affairs for CINMS.

- Adam Petuskey, Shauna Bingham and Sean Hastings participated in search and rescue efforts on Sanctuary vessel XANTU.
- Anne Walton, Mike Murray, Kathryn Hintergardt, Lorri Herr and other staff and interns tracked progress and coordinated office and web-based communications.
- Sarah Fangman, Sean Hastings and staff from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) (Patrick Cotter, Michelle Finn and Scott Kathey) continued work on recovery and resource damage assessments.
- The XANTU was utilized for personnel and supply transfer to Navy ROV support vessel.

The NOS HAZMAT response group provided initial overall coordination and trajectory maps to forecast the location and distribution of the floating debris field. NOAA's designated on-scene coordinator, LCDR Matt Pickett, and the deputy on-scene coordinator, Ms. Heather Parker-Hall, oversaw the preparation and delivery of existing and customized digital and hard-copy maps characterizing the shoreline, bathymetry, and bottom composition, and the continuation of trajectory modeling of search fields. NOAA Public Affairs provided a person on-scene to work with Julie Goodson on handling media requests with the other agencies. Staff from the NOS Special Projects Office, the CINMS, and MBNMS provided direct technical and logistical support to the NOAA on-scene coordinator at the Incident Command Center and in the CINMS office. The CINMS vessel Xantu provided search field mapping as well as support to the salvage vessel.

Coordinating with State agencies, NOAA requested full debris recovery from the NTSB. The NTSB/Navy review of the request resulted in an agreement to remove approximately 65% of the debris. Debris recovery continues, and is expected to be completed in mid-March.

A NOS web page detailing the incident includes a map product page with examples of data provided during the disaster. The URL is: <http://www.nos.noaa.gov/news/flt261/flight261.html>.

Chris Williams emphasized the importance of squid fishermen and their role during the search and rescue. Matt Pickett acknowledged their help and participation and expressed appreciation on behalf of CINMS.

Brown Pelican Disturbance / Light Boat Issue

The Sanctuary appeared at the February Fish and Game Commission meeting and, along with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, requested adoption of a proposed regulation to close squid fishing around Anacapa Island and Santa Barbara Island during pelican nesting season. Fish and Game adopted regulations that require the shielding of lights and a maximum of 30,000 watts per vessel.

CINMS has met with resource management agencies including the Channel Islands National Park, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to address monitoring and research related to the issue. The Sanctuary will be supporting research with vessel support and staff for seabird research to be conducted by Humboldt State University. The Channel Islands National Park will continue their seabird monitoring program on the Islands and conduct light studies. The DFG will continue prey abundance trawls and analysis and light studies. DFG has been requested to report back to the Fish and Game Commission in one year on the status of the pelican disturbance issue. CINMS will continue to work with the resource

management agencies to synthesize the various research and monitoring findings for the update next year.

Research Activities

Sustainable Seas

SSE planning began for the June 5-24 mission. Details to follow later in the meeting (2:00 pm).

3. Public Comment

Eric Hooper, Vice President of the Ventura County Fisherman's Association read the following statement:

“Allow me to preface by saying that California's commercial fishermen have always supported any action that seeks to protect the habitat and resources that our livelihoods depend.”

“The considerations of marine reserves and the consensus building process being established here in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) must consider that adequate scientific assessments and peer reviews are needed to carefully evaluate the needs for such areas and the possible locations for any proposed reserves. Such assessments should be in the context of complementing existing Federal and State fisheries management measures and goals. One such goal is to maintain and promote sustainable fisheries both commercial and sport. Public resource management proposals such as marine reserves should be based on a clear cost benefit analysis. Careful consideration should always be made as to the benefits or cost to the public welfare. Without a comprehensive economic impact study it would seem injudicious to believe that any cost benefit analysis to our communities could be made.”

“The need to rush along such a process to accommodate CINMS' target date of September 2000 seems seriously flawed. The draft of a new CINMS management plan and the States' desire to consider any recommendations on marine reserves are in our view two completely separate issues. The belief that speed science or speedy decisions in the absence of any crisis is ill-advised. Getting it done right has to be more important than getting it done fast.”

“The Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) has been directed to develop a community-based process to reach a consensus on the question of marine reserves in the Channel Islands. We would also like to see that sort of process, with special emphasis on community; this community, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Perhaps in the final formation of a Socio-Economic working group we'll be able to see more of the faces of the business community whose prosperity is dependent on our Channel Islands.”

“This process should not, in our opinion, deviate from the original Fish and Game instructions on whether or not to recommend marine reserves and not where or how. It seems a formidable enough task alone to reach a consensus on this question. There seems to be plenty of time to work out the details with affected parties and managers under the guidelines established in the Shelley bill should the recommendations be for reserves, after the initial question has been answered.”

“We would like to think that the members of the SAC are current and up to speed on two areas. First, the current state of our fisheries, their variety and stock assessments. Second, current management regimes and the myriad sets of regulations that govern our marine resources. The first will hopefully be made available at a later date by the science working group, and as to the second I would be glad to return at a later date to give the council a summary.”

“It appears as though proponents of Harvest Refugia believe that there is a lack of effective management in fisheries in California. The Ventura County commercial Fisherman’s Association would like the opportunity to convince them otherwise. We are not at all interested in derailing the process at the Sac but certainly in making it in our view more participatory. We feel that an open forum can only educate and enlighten the public as to our role as stewards of the sea.”

“Finally, I would personally hope that the members of the SAC not put to small a price on personal freedoms. A great man once said the price of freedom is always less when it’s someone else’s.”

Mr. Hooper also suggested that public forums on marine reserves should be held more often.

Sandy Delano from the Ventura Port District wanted clarification on a rumor that has been spreading among the fishing community that near-shore fisheries were going to close on May 4. Lt. Jorge Gross of the Department of Fish and Game stated that the rumor is false.

Barry Schuyler, speaking as a member of the public, reported that he, along with a colleague from UCSB, is drafting a paper on the Endangered Species Act with the intention of helping the public understand the Act and support it. They are considering economic, philosophical, and ethical questions and would appreciate any comments and/or suggestions from the SAC. Mick Kronman expressed interest in this subject and would like to discuss it further. Craig Fusaro suggested that they use the SAC list-serve for this purpose. Discussion continued about public education on these issues.

4. Council Member Announcements

- Dr. Matt Cahn:** The establishment of California State University Channel Islands is still on hold. It will become state property in 2002.
- Marla Daily:** Concerned with the participation of SAC seat alternates and the outreach to the public-at-large. She also mentioned a news clipping service provided by John Hankins.
- Dianne Meester:** The Santa Barbara County Planning Department is involved with many issues of the Endangered Species Act.
- Lt. Yuri Graves:** The Coast Guard is involved with a navigation survey as part of the management program. He will summarize the survey and distribute it to the SAC. The Coast Guard has put up dive flags at Santa Rosa Island and is distributing safety alerts outlining the use of dive flags to dive shops, charter operators, and others. He will send them to the SAC.
- Fred Piltz:** The CD-ROM on the Channel Islands Symposium will be distributed soon.
- Barry Schuyler:** The Maritime Museum will be ready to open in July, equipped with a state of the art theater that will be available to anyone.

- Chris Williams:** He has noticed a substantial amount of trash in the ocean lately, particularly plastic bags. He believes that the large swells cause bags that are in the bottom sediment to rise to the surface. Most of this trash comes from drainage into the Pacific.
- Lyn Krieger:** Drafted a letter to CINMS calling for staffing of the Sanctuary's new Oxnard office at the Channel Islands harbor. Office. This letter was distributed to the Council and it was proposed that the SAC author it.
- Action Item: The Council approved the letter from SAC to CINMS.**
- Dr. Craig Fusaro:** Steelhead trout are back in south coast streams. These Steelhead populations are some of the oldest genomes that we have. CEC and CCP have received a restoration grant fund that will start in the Spring
- Dave Long:** MERA is focusing on cross-curricular education. At the end of March, the School-to-Career project will be implemented through the Cabrillo High School aquarium, which will also be the location of the May SAC meeting.
- Gary Timm:** A bill (AB 2310) was introduced by Ducheney (San Diego) that holds the potential to weaken the CA Coastal Act's protection of wetlands. The CA Coastal Commission is against this bill.
- Linda Krop:** Invited the SAC to an event to introduce the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. Their 24-hour hotline is 1-877-4CACoast
- Alex Brodie:** Currently working on the CINMS management plan Military Public Forum, to be held April 19th
- Bruce Steele:** The fishing community is seeking a compromise regarding the sea otter issue and will hold off on their lawsuit. Maldonado wants to close near-shore areas to halibut fishing along the central coast. The sea otter issue supercedes other fishery issues, at least to his fishery. He would like to sustain macroinvertebrates.

5. Committee Reports

A. Marine Reserves Working Group (discussed later in the meeting)

B. Military Working Group (discussed later in the meeting)

C. Research Working Group/RAP (Matt Cahn)

While the Science Panel is engaged in the reserves process the RAP will not meet.

D. Fishing Working Group (Bruce Steele)

Bruce was unable to give an update at this time. Craig commented that he has received several calls from fishermen in Ventura regarding the fishing representation on the SAC.

E. Conservation Working Group (Linda Krop)

The next meeting is on April 4 at 7:00 p.m. and the focus will be on water quality. Craig encouraged everybody to participate in that meeting. Linda acknowledged Greg Helms of the Center for Marine Conservation for helping coordinate the Conservation Working Group meetings.

F. Education working group/MERA (Dave Long)

Dave reported that the number of participants and their participation is substantial. He then introduced Julie Goodson, MERA coordinator. Julie reported that one of the goals of MERA is to create partnerships among the participating educators in this region to enhance existing and future marine education programs. Another goal is to increase awareness, understanding, participation and support of our marine environment for our region and enhance stewardship and resource protection through this collaborative educational outreach effort.

Once the Sanctuary drafts the education/outreach component of the management plan, it will be brought to the MERA steering committee for review. This education proposal will then be brought to the general MERA membership at the next meeting for their review. Julie stated that the long-term goal is to have MERA support the education and outreach plan for the next five years. She then gave a little background information on MERA and introduced three of the steering committee members: Eric Solomon (manager of the Sea Center on Stearns Wharf), Wes Chapin (CA State Parks Marine Division), and Ron White (RAIN network). All three members commented briefly on their organizations and their involvement with MERA.

To get more information about MERA, Julie suggested referring to the Sanctuary's website.

6. Consideration of a new SAC Working Group: Ports and Harbors (Lyn Krieger)

Lyn Krieger reported that there are five ports and harbors that are affected by the actions of the Sanctuary: Port Hueneme, Channel Islands, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Port San Luis. She believes that there are many different interests involved and requested the establishment of this working group.

Matt Pickett commented that the more working groups there are, the less support that the Sanctuary can offer per group. Linda Krop stated that the responsibility for running the working group could lie on the SAC member who is in charge of the working group.

Action Item: By unanimous vote, the establishment of a Ports and Harbors Working Group was approved.

7. Management Plan Revision Process

Matt Pickett stated that the Sanctuary appreciates the support of the SAC in its management plan revision process. CINMS is the first Sanctuary nationwide to attempt to revise their management plan. Over the next few months, the Sanctuary hopes that the SAC will continue to participate in both the management plan revision and marine reserves process.

A. Progress Report and Timeline (Mike Murray)

Mike presented and explained the following slides:

Management Plan Process

Public Process Overview:

- Public scoping meetings
- Synthesize scoping comments and present results to public
- Public Information Forums on select issues to be addressed by EIS – April/May 2000
- DEIS/DMP released for public comment – June/July 2000
- Final EIS/management plan – Dec. 2000

Recent Management Plan Briefings:

- U.S. Navy
- Vandenberg AFB
- Minerals Management Service
- National Park Service, Regional HQ
- Channel Islands National Park
- U.S. forest Service/Los Padres Nat'l forest
- Governor's Office
- Office of Lois Capps
- Office of Hannah Beth Jackson
- Office of Jack O'Connell

Morro Bay Public Meeting – Feb. 15, 2000:

- Invited by Morro Bay City council
- Purpose: Explain MP Study Area decision, answer public questions
- 60-65 people attended
- Study Area report by Dr. Michael McGinnis
- Live TV broadcast on local public station
- Comments pro and con

Draft Management Plan - Program Area Sections:

- Education and Outreach
- Research
- Cultural & Historical Resources
 - Policy
 - Enforcement
 - SAC
- Administration

Draft Management Plan - Program Area Sections:

- Approx. 10 pages per program area
- Outline:
 - Introduction
 - Issue
 - Objectives
 - Action Plan/Program Description
 - Partners
 - Products
 - Timeline

- Performance Indicators

Draft Management Plan - Issues to be addressed in Program Areas:

- Water Quality
- Military Activities
- Oil and Gas Activities
- Vessel Traffic
- Emergency Response
- Visitor Use (recreational and commercial)
- Research Use
- Submerged Cultural Resources

Draft Management Plan (DMP) – Schedule:

Program Area Sections – Expected schedule for review drafts:

- Mid-April → End of May

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) - Description of the Affected Environment

- Overview of physical/biological setting and human uses
- CINMS collecting data
- Tetra Tech producing report
- Timeline: Draft expected **end of March**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) - Status of the Resources Report

- Tetra Tech producing report
- To include analysis of:
 - Ecosystem status
 - Factors influencing ecosystem integrity
 - Potentially vulnerable species
 - High interest species
 - Areas of high ecological significance
- Timeline: Report due **mid-April**
- Public Information Forum: **May 9**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) - Alternatives Development

- Each alternative to include:
 - Proposed Boundary
 - Proposed Regulations
 - Impact on Affected environment (socio-econ. & bio/physical)
- Timeline: on or before **May 17**
- Boundary Redefinition Public Information Forums: **May 17** and **May 24**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) - Release of DEIS

- Timeline: **end of June** (target date)
- Document released in print, Web Site, CD-ROM
- 45-60 day commend period
- All written comments must be addressed in FEIS
- Public information campaign (summary booklet, newspaper inserts)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) – Schedule Overview:

- End of March.....DEIS Description of Affected Area
- Mid-April.....DEIS Status of the Resources
- Mid-April – End of May.....DMP Program Areas
- On/before May 17.....DEIS Alternatives

Advisory Council Considerations

- Level of SAC involvement
- Methods for providing advice
- Short turnaround times for document section reviews (10 days – 2 weeks)
- Role of Working Groups (Conservation, Military, Fishing, Education, Research, Marine Reserves) in document reviews
- Role of other constituents

B. Management Plan Public Information Forums (Mike Murray)

Purposes:

- To gain a better understanding of select priority issues to be addressed in the Management Plan
- Increase community participation in MP process
- Raise public awareness about MP, Sanctuary, and SAC

Management Plan Forums - Schedule:

- Military Activities in the Study Area – April 19, Ventura
- Status of the Resources Report – May 9, Santa Barbara
- Boundary Redefinition Alternatives – May 17, Lompoc
- Boundary Redefinition Alternatives – May 24, Santa Barbara

Management Plan Forums - Advisory Council Considerations:

- Co-host events?
- Assistance with constituent outreach
- Advice on event planning:
 - Approach
 - Participants
 - Facilitation?
 - Other?

A member of the Council asked if one of the forums will be scheduled in Ventura. Mike said that it will be considered. Craig Fusaro emphasized the importance of scheduling a forum in Ventura. Eric Hooper wanted to know if the management plan revision timeline is more important than community involvement. Mike responded that the Sanctuary has placed great emphasis on public involvement, and that the management plan timeline may appear “rushed” now, but has actually been going for about a year. Craig stated that as soon as the public forum dates are set, he will send something out to his constituents. Lyn Krieger suggested that some of the SAC members would be able to support these forums. Linda Krop also emphasized the ability of the SAC to help support the Sanctuary. Chris Williams asked if the Sanctuary would

be able to mail literature out to his constituents. Mike responded yes. Marla suggested that the Sanctuary send out a press release to “The Log.”

Someone from the public audience stated that if a preferred boundary alternative was presented to the public prior to release of the DEIS, it would be difficult to alter it for the DEIS. He suggested having many more scoping meetings before a boundary alternative is set forth. A discussion on yacht clubs and their notification of CINMS events ensued. It was suggested that the SAC and CINMS come up with a list of those that would be effected by boundary redefinition and notify those groups.

C. Planning Session: Military Activities Public Forum (Alex Stone)

Alex reported that Vandenberg will have its own presentation, but they have yet to figure out the format of the forum. He would like to encompass all users and is seeking public comments and questions. Ron Down, SAC Navy seat alternate, suggested that to be the most productive, the Military Working Group needs to coordinate and tailor the forum. In other words, he suggested, the military participants need to inform the public and the Sanctuary about what military activities are out there and relate that information to the Sanctuary’s needs. Craig Fusaro suggested that the presenters at this forum allow adequate time for public input. One idea from Sandy Delano was that CINMS send out the meeting notices five days before the first of the month, so that the marinas can publish the date of the forum in their newsletter. Marla Daily suggested advertising these forums in both the Santa Barbara and the Ventura Maritime museum newsletters.

D. Oil and Gas Activity

Mike Murray reported that MMS wanted more information on what was needed from them in consideration of holding a public forum on oil and gas activities in the Sanctuary’s management plan study area. Mike suggested that, in lieu of a public forum, perhaps alternative meeting forums could be explored that participants would be more comfortable with. These ideas included: agendizing an oil and gas session at a future SAC meeting, or holding a working meeting at CINMS with MMS, industry reps and other participants (SAC to be invited). Dianne Meester suggested that State Lands could participate in such meetings. Marla Daily suggested that the SAC could be criticized for not inviting the public. Fred Piltz stated that if oil and gas activities were presented at a SAC meeting, more people/presenters would be open to the idea; however, if it were just open to the public, it would be a concern for those in the industry. Marla Daily commented that she does not think that there should be two different types of meetings for military and oil/gas.

Action Item: Fred Piltz would like all comments regarding management plan meeting ideas for oil and gas activities to be e-mailed to him.

8. Sustainable Seas Expeditions (SSE) (Laura Francis and Julie Goodson)

Laura Francis (NOAA Sustainable Seas Expeditions) and Julie Goodson (CINMS Education Coordinator) presented the following slides:

2000 SSE Initiatives

CINMS Research – Sub Ops

Habitat Characterization/Groundtruthing SSS

Objective: Collect information on habitat where sidescan images are difficult to interpret.

Tasks: Conduct transects along pre-determined transect lines to survey geologic character of seafloor. Survey same transect line to characterize fish species associated with various habitat types.

Equipment on sub: Lasers mounted on a fixed camera, still and video cameras, compass, navigation and communication equipment, time and voice mark on video.

Equipment on ship: Navigation to record sub tracks and to mark specific sub events sited; ship-to-sub communication, post-dive processing of stills and video.

Locations: One-half mile long transects at Anacapa Island (4) Santa Rosa Island (3) and South San Miguel Island (3). Additional transects will be identified as sidescan data are processed (these will be completed by May).

Depths: 275-400 feet

Number of dives required: Minimum of one per transect; ideally a second dive would be conducted at each transect to collect biologic data

Habitat Characterization/Rockfish Surveys

Objective: Collect information on rockfish species of concern – comparison between heavily fished area (the Footprint) and de facto reserve (Platform Gail).

Tasks: Conduct 5-minute transects surveying for bocaccio, vermillion, cowcod and flag rockfish

Equipment on sub: Lasers mounted on a fixed camera (10-20 cm apart), still and video cameras, compass, fish count/survey data sheets, navigation and communication equipment.

Equipment on ship: Navigation to record sub tracks and to mark specific sub events sited, ship-to-sub communication, post-dive processing of stills and video.

Locations: “The Footprint” – south of the Anacapa/Santa Cruz Passage. Platform Gail – North of Anacapa Island. Time permitting, dives will be conducted at “Donna’s Reef” in the Anacapa/Santa Cruz Passage or in “Milton’s Reef” in the Anacapa/Santa Cruz Passage.

Depths: Depths at the Footprint range from 300-800 feet. The maximum depth at Platform Gail is 740 feet. “Donna’s”: 150-160 feet; “Milton’s”: 169-170 feet.

Number of dives required: One dive at Platform Gail, as many dives as possible on the Footprint. Opportunistically at other sites.

CINMS Exploration Ideas

Squid Spawning Habitat

Objective: Characterize squid spawning habitat (depth, temperature, substrate type)

Tasks: Explore known squid spawning habitat and collect video images

Equipment on sub: Still and video cameras, compass, navigation and communication equipment, CTD

Equipment on ship: Navigation to record sub tracks and to mark specific sub events sited; ship-to-sub communication, post-dive processing of stills and video

Location: South Anacapa Island, South Santa Rosa Island

Depths: 120-400 feet

White Abalone

Objective: Search for White Abalone

Tasks: Conduct surveys in search of white abalone

Equipment on sub: Still and video cameras, compass, navigation and communication equipment

Equipment on ship: Navigation to record sub tracks and to mark specific sub events sited, ship-to-sub communication, post-dive processing of stills and video

Locations: TBD

Depths: 85-250 feet

CINMS Research – Non-sub Ops

Habitat Characterization/SSS

Objective: Map the benthic habitat of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Tasks: Conduct nightly sidescan sonar transects (12 nights)

Equipment on ship: Winch to tow sidescan fish; deckhand for launch/operation/recovery of fish

Location: South side of Santa Cruz Island; Anacapa gap, north portion (south portion was mapped during SSE 99); Vandenberg (this is a need of the CINMS that may not be feasible during SSE given the majority of SSE operations will occur on the east end of the Santa Barbara Channel). Each of these areas will require three nights of operations. Additional areas to target (time permitting) would include the North side of Santa Cruz Island.

Habitat Characterization/Oceanography

Objective: Describe flow and hydrographic character of coastal eddy in the western half of the Santa Barbara Channel using TOWYO and ADCP. Describe flow and hydrographic character of island passes using ADCP.

Tasks: Conduct nightly ADCP and CTD transects across Santa Barbara Channel (5 nights); collect ADCP data anytime the MacArthur is near island passes. ADCP and TOWYO transects require eight hours to perform – TOWYO transects run at 4 knots.

Equipment on ship: ADCP and CTD, winch to tow TOWYO and deploy CTD; deckhand for launch/operation/recovery of CTD and TOWYO

Location (according to priority): 1) Santa Barbara Channel Eddy and 2) Island passes – (a) Santa Cruz Passage between Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz (b) Anacapa Passage between Santa Cruz and Anacapa (c) Santa Rosa Passage between San Miguel and Santa Rosa

CINMS Habitat Characterization

Education Component Submersible Dives

- Benthic Invertebrate Assessments – Extend the established National Park Service Kelp Forest Monitoring transects at Anacapa Island to depths of approximately 400 ft. to conduct invertebrate density counts of abalone, sea urchins, sea stars and gorgonians
- Student Project Dives – Determine distribution, abundance, and size frequency of California Sheephead (*Semicossyphus pulcher*) at three locations on Anacapa
- Fish Surveys – Conduct roving fish surveys and timed species counts at three locations on Anacapa Island down to 400 ft.

Proposed Locations – Anacapa Island

- Cathedral Cove
- Landing Cove (a marine no-take zone to 60 ft.)
- Admirals Reef

Benthic Invertebrate Assessment Tasks

- Fly four to six 50 meter horizontal transects at each of the three sites in 80-400 ft. with video camera pointed at bottom substrate and lasers (mounted ½ meter apart on sub) in view of the camera
- Record invertebrate species observed during dive
- After dive, review tape to determine densities of key species (urchins, abalone, sea stars, gorgonians)
- Conduct a 100 meter transect at KFM site at Admiral's Reef to compare submersible and scuba methods for assessment of benthic invertebrates

Student Project Tasks

- Record abundance, distribution, size, sex, and depth of observed California Sheephead (*Semicossyphus pulcher*) down to 400 ft. at the three sites
- Observe and record California Sheephead behavior during day vs. night at Admiral's Reef

Fish Survey Tasks

- Create a running list of fish species observed during a 45 minute period of a dive. Make a notation on the list at 5 minute increments
- Estimate number of each species of fish observed in the categories of Single (1 fish), few (2-10 fish), Many (11-100 fish) and Abundant (>100 fish)
- Collect video and still images of unknown fish species

Equipment Needed on Deepworker

- Still and video cameras
- Navigation tracking and communication equipment
- Compass

- Data Sonde
- Lasers mounted on sub ½ meter apart
- Pilot data forms
- Stopwatch
- Fish and invertebrate identification books

Critical Outcomes

- Build upon historical data set (Kelp Forest Monitoring)
- Analyze and make available historical data for key target species
- Analyze trends over time and differences between sites
- Post subsets of data and images on Web for teacher and student use

SSE 2000 Educational Initiatives Channel Islands NMS

- Teacher At Sea/Student At Sea
- Underwater Video Uplink at Anacapa Island
- Student Summit conference
- Traveling *DeepWorker* Exhibit
- SSE Open House
- GIS Teacher Workshop

Julie Goodson emphasized that Sanctuary staff could use help with outreach. Craig Fusaro stated that the SAC did not get a chance to meet with Dr. Sylvia Earle last year and asked if it might be possible for them to meet with her this year. Julie suggested that the Student Summit reception on June 12th and 24th would be an ideal time to meet Dr. Earle. Dianne Meester asked if the SAC would be able to take a tour of the NOAA ship MacArthur. Matt Pickett said he could check into this, and also offered a special R/V Ballena trip for the SAC to go out to the MacArthur.

9. Marine Reserves Process

A. Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG) activities (Sean Hastings)

Sean Hastings reported that the MRWG will schedule the next public forum at the March 16th meeting. Sean also provided an update on the last MRWG meeting, at which constituency outreach was discussed. Sean believes that the MRWG has a good handle on their constituencies and what's going on. The MRWG also submitted several questions to the Science Panel, but realized that many of these questions were "societal" in nature more so than scientific. Sean believes that the relationship between the MRWG and the Science Panel is still a work in progress. The MRWG has adopted a socioeconomic goal for reserves: To achieve long-term economic productivity while minimizing the short-term economic losses to all consumptive users.

Bruce Steele stated that the MRWG is getting stuck between preservationism and fisheries management. He stated that he was weary of the fact that the MRWG is halfway through the

process and yet they have only come up with two goals. He believes that the MRWG is not getting to the meat of the issue and that too much time is being taken up focussing on process details. Matt Pickett noted that the slow pace of the process can allow the public to catch up with it before the group makes any critical decisions. Sean Hastings stated that the MRWG is currently waiting on the Science Panel and Socioeconomic Team to gather and present data to them, and that the MRWG originally overestimated how fast they could move through the process. Craig Fusaro suggested that it might be useful if the SAC weighed in and let the MRWG know the Council hopes they will continue at pace and encourage them to go along with it.

Bruce Steele stated that Bob Warner, Science Panel member, reported that many reserves show that there is benefit to fisheries, but that only one has showed benefits outside the reserves to fisheries. Bruce believes that he can't sell reserves to fishermen unless there is proof that there is a benefit outside of reserves. If reserves occur, there will be less fishing area with more fishermen in them. Dave Long asked if the fishing industry made recommendations to manage their own industry and if so, it could this be shared with the SAC. Bruce mentioned a Monterey Bay Sanctuary document by Rick Star as one example of a document that explains fisheries management. Craig Fusaro suggested a broader report called the "California Marine Resources and their Utilization (1992)." According to Craig, this document will be expanded very soon. Chris Williams stated that fishermen believe that they have proper management and have always worked with the whole management process for the whole ocean. He believes that there is too much management now and that fishermen feel like they are being punished by losing parts of their fisheries. Sean Hastings commented that reserves aren't just a fisheries management tool, but that one goal is to sustain fisheries.

A draft letter from the SAC to the MRWG was reviewed by the Council.

Action Item: The SAC approved the draft letter of encouragement to the MRWG.

B. Science Panel (Satie Airame)

Satie Airame, post-doctoral researcher with CINMS, began with a brief overview of Science Panel activities. She reported that the Science Panel met on December 17th, 1999 and January 11th, 2000. The Science Panel is currently collecting as much data as possible about the study area. In addition to scientific data, both anecdotal and socioeconomic data are being collected as well. The Science Panel has received a draft list of the MRWG's species of concern, and has collected and compiled data on species distribution/abundance, long-term trends, extensive kelp data, and more. The Science Panel would like to respond to the MRWG's goals and objectives and cannot move forward substantially until these are finalized. In response to questions about data gathering, Satie offered to provide the SAC with a data source list (biological and physical). Overall, Satie believes that the Science Panel is making great progress.

Some of the issues that the Science Panel will discuss in the future are:

- reserve network design
- reserve evaluation
- monitoring program
- which species are important
- what a reserve is
- habitat classification

- identification of major ecological processes
- narrow down species of concern list

Marla Daily asked Satie how the Science Panel will deal with a mistype of a document. Satie replied that it will be dealt with through the MRWG. Ron Dow asked if DFG or CINMS had particular species in mind when reserves were first suggested. Jorge Gross (DFG) replied that they did not. Ron also asked if the commission could take their own stance on reserves. Craig Fusaro replied that some State mandates exist now (e.g. Shelley Bill). Sean Hastings stated that the Fish and Game Commission is a state process and does not manage federal waters. The Fish and Game Commission looking to the MRWG process as a model.

Satie stated that the Science Panel is making a recommendation to the MRWG as to what areas are critical during the lifecycle of the group's species of concern. Craig stated that the more specific and clear the goals and objectives are, the more likely the Science Panel can help. Leal Mertes asked if part of the staging of the Science Panel is to look at reserve design. Satie commented that the Science Panel has in mind several design aspects, such as evaluation and monitoring of reserves. Satie added that the Science Panel has already discussed reserve size and the location of reserves.

C. Marine Reserves Socio-Economic Study (Sean Hastings)

Sean Hastings handed out a Socioeconomic Team roster. Bob Leeworthy and Peter Wiley of the Socioeconomic Team have been working with TetraTech. Bob is working on the commercial aspect and Peter on the recreational aspect of the study. Kolstad is investigating charter and party boat businesses, while Mick Kronman is collecting new anecdotal information from people who use the region. Sean believes that CINMS has met and gone beyond their NEPA legal requirements.

Chris Williams believes that the fishing community wants more local representation in the process. He believes that the MRWG should have the power to decide how to take the Science Panel's and Socioeconomic Team's information. He believes that peer reviewing is needed.

Craig Fusaro reminded everyone that the SAC chose MRWG members and made recommendations on its structure, and that the SAC has the power to alter the structure or make suggestions to the MRWG.

A member of the public was concerned that the Socio Economic Team's contractors are now being paid by NOAA, which might sway their data. He also believes that the Socio Economic Team can't get all of the information needed. He prefers a preliminary peer review before their data is brought to the MRWG. Craig Fusaro restated that the public wants individuals with specific commercial or recreational expertise to participate in the process. Linda Krop stated that the MRWG was created as the stakeholder-based group, not the Science Panel and Socio-Economic Team groups. The Science Panel, for example, was specifically appointed based on their lack of published bias on reserves; their job is only to collect data and provide scientific recommendations. Fred Piltz wanted to know if the MRWG members, after receiving reports from the Science Panel, would be able to interpret them. Craig replied that some members are scientists themselves, but hopefully the information will be presented in such a way that all MRWG members can understand it. Sean Hastings reminded everyone that joint meetings between the MRWG and Science Panel have happened and will continue to happen in the future.

Chris Williams requested time at the next SAC meeting for him and Eric Hooper to present on the existing management of fisheries at the Channel Islands. This met with Council approval by general acclaim.

D. SAC Discussion on Constituent Outreach

Julie Goodson, Education Coordinator at CINMS, has been working on development of some outreach tools for the MRWG. She has created a handout on public involvement in the marine reserves process. Additional ideas that she has regarding constituent outreach include an editorial in the newspaper and an insert in the Santa Barbara Independent and the Ventura County Star.

Leal Mertes suggested that a university professor might be interested in studying a process like this. Craig Fusaro feels that there is a need for the MRWG co-chairs to make a joint statement, but that it hasn't been addressed yet at MRWG meetings. Julie responded by stating that both Ed Cassano and Patty Wolf had already started that.

Leal Mertes suggested that the "Socioeconomic Team" be changed to "Socioeconomic Panel."

10. Future Meeting Dates, Locations, and Agenda Items

Per Council agreement, topics for future SAC meetings will be:

Management Plan Presentation (April 19)

MRWG Update (April 19)

Fishermen Presentation on current fisheries management (April 19 or May 17)

Planning session on the next public information forum (Status of Resources) (April 19)

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Mettja Hong and Mike Murray
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary